

- 2 -

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A system for authenticating a user of a network, comprising:
a network-connected verification server for performing the authentication; and
a network-connected appliance operable by the user for sending a request for authentication;

wherein the request for authentication comprises a network destination for at least one site requiring log-in by the user, and a username-password pair for the user, and the server, in response to the request, causes navigation to the at least one site and a login attempt with the username-password pair, successful login comprising authentication.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the network is the Internet network.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the verification server is a first server, and the request is sent from the appliance to a second server, which forwards at least a portion of the request to the first server, and the first server returns an indication of verification after causing the navigation and log-in attempt.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29 wherein all or a portion of the request is compared against stored user profile data for verification purposes.

- 3 -

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30 wherein the request comprises a plurality of sites and user-name-password pairs for the sites, and authentication is a relative number based on log-in results.

34. (Previously presented) A method for authenticating a user of a network, comprising steps of:

(a) accepting by a server a network destination and a username-password pair as an authentication request from a user;

(b) causing, by the server, navigation to the at least one site and a login attempt with the username-password pair; and

(c) reporting an indication of authenticity according to success or failure of the login attempt.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the network is the Internet network.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the server is a first server, and the request is sent from the appliance to a second server, which forwards at least a portion of the request to the first server, and the first server returns the indication of authenticity after causing the navigation and log-in attempt.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein all or a portion of the request is compared against stored user profile data for verification purposes.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the request comprises a plurality of sites and username-password pairs for the sites, and authentication is a relative number based on log-in results.